

Karl Clark's Legacy



Karl Clark (right)
at Father Bill's
70th Birthday
Celebration
on March 6, 2001.

This has all happened too quickly, with our deadline too near, to fully pay homage and tribute to Karl Clark, who has done so much for so many. The loss to our community is immeasurable.

His achievements, his accomplishments, his service has been so great; his

contributions so caring, our loss is incalculable. We learn to appreciate life not by the quantity of its years, but by the quality of its spirit.

At 58, Barnett "Karl" Clark leaves us with a lasting legacy that we will fully pay tribute to in our next issue.

President Bush Clearly Does Not Discriminate

Whatever criticisms we have published about the policies and issues thus far adopted by the President of the United States, one sure thing has emerged over the first one hundred days.

President Bush is a decent man who is seeking out top professionals to run the government. As was reported in the last edition of the *Express*, President Bush has already named two openly gay nominees to positions of trust and responsibility in the Pentagon and the White House AIDS office. He has previously stated that he would not make an individual's sexuality a litmus test for public service, and he has stood by his promise.

As we previously reported, he will retain an Executive Order issued by President Clinton in 1994 banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, among

other categories, in the issuance of security clearances. The Executive Order applies to all military personnel, civilian and uniform, as well as other government employees and federal contractors.

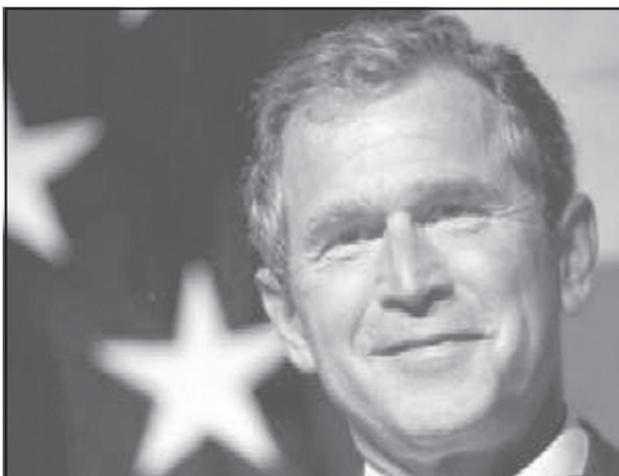
In comments made during the first Bush Administration, when sexual orientation was used to deny security clearances, then-Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney called the rationale for such a policy "a bit of an old chestnut."

We may continue to disagree, and probably will, on prospective Supreme Court appointments or faith based initiatives, or policies that ultimately do a

disservice to the goals and goods we have already achieved and seek to maintain. But Mr. Bush is trying to bring a sense of decency and dignity to the White House that his predecessor sometimes slipped up on.

On top of that, Attorney General Ashcroft, whose nomination we attacked, has already reached out to gay activists and Log Cabin Republicans. He has promised to enforce hate crimes laws vigorously as well.

Other Cabinet members, including Ms.

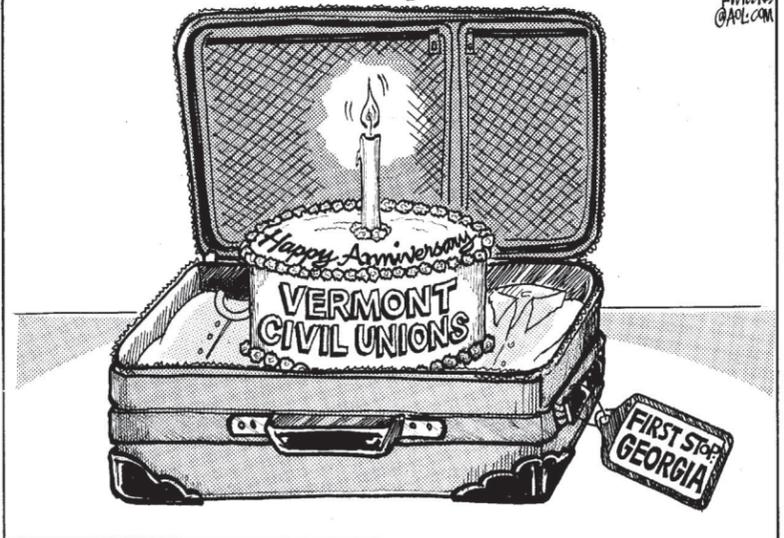


Whitman, have not hesitated to hire gay persons in her office. Hopefully, those choices fulfill their roles with honor, so as to negate the misguided allegiances of Ms. Norton, another Cabinet member, and her ilk.

Despite the fact that gay Democrats outnumber gay Republicans locally and nationally, it is gay Republicans, locally and nationally, that are making news, fighting to be part of the mainstream, and gathering significant headway into the body politic.

It is gay Democrats that are falling behind the public tide, and they had best get in the waters before the current passes them by.

BUT WILL IT TRAVEL WELL?



EDITORIAL CARTOON

THE EXPRESS CHAT ROOM

Letters to the Editor

Communication Workers Join in Condemning Boy Scouts of America

For decades, the Boy Scouts of America has provided a positive experience for thousands of boys, helping them acquire important skills and maturity. Many CWA members have benefited from scouting over the years both as youngsters and later as adult volunteers, where they have had an opportunity to make a difference in young lives. Our union has been proud to show our support by frequently designating Boy Scout honor guards to display the colors at the opening of annual CWA conventions.

Therefore, it is with sadness that we now take action to sever ties between CWA and the Boy Scouts of America until such time as its leaders reverse their policy of excluding gays from membership or volunteer activities in scouting.

This policy by the Boy Scouts organization is an appalling step backward at a time when other American institutions - churches, corporations, school systems, even the military - are moving in a more enlightened direction to banish discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation.

Teaching intolerance is a very poor lesson for our youth - one that we must challenge. We urge Boy Scouts of America leaders to reconsider and drop this policy. In the meantime, CWA calls upon its local unions and members to refrain from supporting or participating in activities of the Boy Scouts.

T. Santora
National Co-President
Pride At Work, AFL-CIO

Letter Writer Comments on Letter Writer Who Commented on Columnist: (Whew!)

I read with interest in your April 23, 2001, edition, the letter to the Editor from Pete Halpern of Miami Shores in regard to your journalist, Michael Alvear. The part of the letter I found of interest was Mr. Halpern's suggestion to Mr. Alvear to perhaps explore whether lack of societal support for men loving men facilitates sexual promiscuity.

One could look at The Netherlands where the right to marriage for gays was recently put into law. The gay lifestyle has been openly accepted in Amsterdam for decades. Amsterdam also has nearly 50 bars that offer back-rooms for anonymous, promiscuous sex. I would say that gays in Amsterdam have plenty of societal support and yet have one of the largest offerings of places to have promiscuous sex per capita in the world. And it's not just the tourists who are going to these

places. In the U.S., it goes hand in hand that the more accepting the city is of the gay lifestyle, the more places there are to go for promiscuous sex.

Does anyone ever bother to question why the Lesbian Community, which has the same rights in these cities, does not have back-room bars, bath houses, glory hole book-stores and sex clubs in the numbers that gay men do? When is the last time you read of a lesbian being arrested in a park or rest-area for public sex? Come on guys. Let's have a reality check here. It's not the disapproval of society that causes gay men to frequent these places for promiscuous sex. Ask any guy who frequents these places the reason why he does and the answer won't be, "Because Society gives me no other choice."

Richard K. Claycomb
Miami Beach

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